Appl. No. 09/643,979 Amdt. Dated May 19, 2003 Reply to Office Action of Feb. 26, 2003



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Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) A process comprising:

providing a superabsorbent material that is capable of absorbing at least about 20 grams of an aqueous solution per gram of said superabsorbent material;

forming a paper web from a cellulosic fibrous material and said superabsorbent material, wherein said superabsorbent material comprises from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of said paper web;

at least partially drying said paper web; and

incorporating said paper web into a tissue product, wherein the tissue product is formed primarily from said paper web and optionally one or more additional paper webs, the tissue product having a basis weight less than about 100 grams per square meter.

- 37. (New) A process as defined in claim 36, wherein said superabsorbent material is provided in a dry state.
- 38. (New) A process as defined in claim 36, further comprising preswelling said superabsorbent material to at least about 30% of its total swelling capacity.
- 39. (New) A process as defined in claim 38, wherein said superabsorbent material is preswollen to at least about 50% of its total swelling capacity.
- 40. (New) A process as defined in claim 38, wherein said superabsorbent material is preswollen to at least about 70% of its total swelling capacity.

Appl. No. 09/643,979 Amdt. Dated May 19, 2003 Reply to Office Action of Feb. 26, 2003



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- 41. (New) A process as defined in claim 36, wherein said superabsorbent material comprises from about 0.1% to about 3% by weight of said paper web
- 42. (New) A process as defined in claim 36, wherein said superabsorbent material is capable of absorbing from about 100 to about 350 grams of an aqueous solution per gram of said superabsorbent material.
- 43. (New) A process as defined in claim 36, further comprising the step of applying a wet-strength agent to said paper web.
- 44. (New) A process as defined in claim 36, further comprising the step of applying a softening agent to said paper web.
- 45. (New) A process as defined in claim 36, wherein said paper web is dried to have a moisture content of less than about 20% by weight of said web.
- 46. (New) A process as defined in claim 36, wherein said paper web is dried to have a moisture content of between about 5% to about 15% by weight of said web.
- 47. (New) A process as defined in claim 36, wherein said cellulosic fibrous material and said superabsorbent material are combined before or during said paper web formation.
- 48. (New) A process as defined in claim 47, wherein said cellulosic fibrous material and said superabsorbent material are combined in a headbox.
- 49. (New) A process as defined in claim 36, wherein said superabsorbent material includes clay, silica gel, agar, pectin, guar gum, a hydrogel polymer, or combinations thereof.
- 50. (New) A process as defined in claim 36, wherein said superabsorbent material includes particles, fibers, flakes, filaments, spheres, and combinations thereof.

- 51. (New) A process as defined in claim 36, wherein said superabsorbent material is a fibrous material.
- 52. (New) A process as defined in claim 36, wherein said paper web is dried using a through-air dryer.
 - 53. (New) A process comprising:

providing a superabsorbent material that is capable of absorbing at least about 50 grams of an aqueous solution per gram of said superabsorbent material;

forming a paper web from a cellulosic fibrous material and said superabsorbent material, wherein said superabsorbent material comprises from about 0.1% to about 3% by weight of said paper web;

at least partially drying said paper web; and

incorporating said paper web into a tissue product, wherein the tissue product is formed primarily from said paper web and optionally one or more additional paper webs, the tissue product having a basis weight less than about 100 grams per square meter.

- 54. (New) A process as defined in claim 53, wherein said superabsorbent material is provided in a dry state.
- 55. (New) A process as defined in claim 53, further comprising preswelling said superabsorbent material.
- 56. (New) A process as defined in claim 53, wherein said superabsorbent material is capable of absorbing from about 100 to about 350 grams of an aqueous solution per gram of said superabsorbent material.
- 57. (New) A process as defined in claim 53, further comprising the step of applying a wet-strength agent to said paper web.

- 58. (New) A process as defined in claim 53, wherein said cellulosic fibrous material and said superabsorbent material are combined before or during said paper web formation.
- 59. (New) A process as defined in claim 53, wherein said superabsorbent material includes clay, silica gel, agar, pectin, guar gum, a hydrogel polymer, or combinations thereof.
- 60. (New) A process as defined in claim 53, wherein said paper web is dried using a through-air dryer.
- 61. (New) An absorbent tissue product that is formed primarily from one or more paper webs, wherein at least one paper web of the tissue product comprises a cellulosic fibrous material and from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight of a superabsorbent material, said superabsorbent material being capable of absorbing at least about 50 grams of water per gram of said superabsorbent material, wherein the absorbent tissue product has a basis weight less than about 100 grams per square meter.
- 62. (New) An absorbent tissue product as defined in claim 61, wherein said superabsorbent material has a moisture content of less than about 50% of the weight of said superabsorbent material.
- 63. (New) An absorbent tissue product as defined in claim 61, wherein said superabsorbent material has a moisture content of less than about 25% of the weight of said superabsorbent material.
- 64. (New) An absorbent tissue product as defined in claim 61, wherein said superabsorbent material comprises from about 0.1% to about 3% by weight of said paper web.

Appl. No. 09/643,979 Amdt. Dated May 19, 2003 Reply to Office Action of Feb. 26, 2003

- 65. (New) An absorbent tissue product as defined in claim 61, wherein said superabsorbent material is capable of absorbing from about 100 to about 350 grams of an aqueous solution per gram of said superabsorbent material.
- 66. (New) An absorbent tissue product as defined in claim 61, wherein the absorbent tissue product contains multiple plies, one of which is formed by said paper web.
- 67. (New) An absorbent tissue product as defined in claim 61, wherein said paper web is a through-dried web.
- 68. (New) An absorbent tissue product as defined in claim 61, wherein said superabsorbent material includes clay, silica gel, agar, pectin, guar gum, a hydrogel polymer, or combinations thereof.
- 69. (New) An absorbent tissue product that is formed primarily from one or more paper webs, wherein at least one paper web of the tissue product comprises a cellulosic fibrous material and from about 0.1% to about 3% by weight of a superabsorbent material, said superabsorbent material being capable of absorbing from about 100 to about 350 grams of water per gram of said superabsorbent material, wherein the absorbent tissue product has a basis weight less than about 100 grams per square meter.